

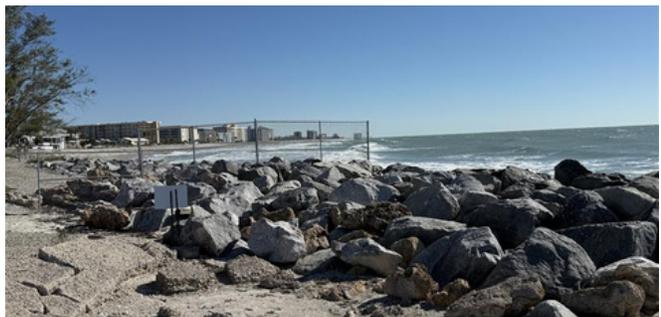
THE CITY OF VENICE SOUTH JETTY

at Humphris Park, 2000 Tarpon Center Drive, Venice FL

Purpose and function of the South Jetty: The south jetty serves as a federally designed coastal wave control structure that plays a vital role in marine navigation by protecting and stabilizing the entrance to the Intracoastal Waterway. Its functionality includes working together with other jetties to prevent cross-currents and redirect tidal flow. During significant storm events, these structures absorb wave energy and storm surges. However, this protective function can lead to increased beach erosion by disrupting the natural sand and water movement from north to south. As a result, the Venice Beach renourishment project is primarily funded and overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

History of the South Jetty

- 1935:** The jetties at Casey's Pass were authorized by the United States Congress in the Rivers and Harbors act of 1935. The project included dredging a new 8 feet deep by 100 feet wide channel and construction of both the north and south jetties. The designed provided direct connection from Roberts Bay to the Gulf of Mexico and stabilize Casey's Pass.
- 1937 -** The more than 650-linear-foot jetties were constructed using 19 steel sheet pile cylinders with creosoted wood sheet pile bulkheads. Following construction, the inlet was dredged and additional materials were placed behind both jetty bulkheads.
- 1940s to 1980s -** USACE conducted inspections, maintenance, and numerous storm related repairs including the placement of more steel, concrete and riprap at the bulkheads and sand placement from inlet dredging. In 1969, more than 6,000 tons of stone were placed around the steel bulkheads, and the 10-foot-wide asphalt walking path was added.
- 1990s to 2024 -** USACE and the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) conducted frequent repairs as the structure aged and storm activity increased in frequency and intensity. The South Jetty sustained major damage from Hurricane Ian in 2022, Hurricane Idalia in 2023, and Tropical Storm Debby in 2024, and was severely damaged by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024.



Present - The South Jetty and Humphris Park remain closed to the public. The City removed storm related debris, capped existing utility connections, and secured the area with 6-foot chain-link fence extended into the water. In coordination with USACE, WCIND, USCG, Sarasota County, and the City, a sonar scan was conducted to ensure no navigable hazards remained. USACE and WCIND are developing a long-term restoration project intended to strengthen the jetty for many years to come.

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Conducting repairs

The South Jetty and adjacent properties are owned, managed, and maintained through cross-jurisdictional agreements, requiring federal, state and City approvals before any maintenance or repairs can commence.

The City of Venice is responsible for maintaining and repairing the Humphris Park parking lot, park access, walkway access, and the asphalt pedestrian walkway that spans the South Jetty. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for the jetty bulkheads, revetment, and riprap, and coordinates with the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) to address the inlet and waterway.

WCIND also aids in securing and coordinating materials and funding sources. Materials used include granite riprap, asphalt, crushed concrete, and other industry-standard pervious and impervious materials. Materials are funded through federal, state, County, and City mechanisms, grants, and agreements.

USACE prioritizes addressing storm damage in coastal areas based on urgency, with immediate attention given to situations that pose a direct threat to life and safety. As a result, the USACE may attend to regions more severely impacted by storms before considering the need for assessments or repairs to the jetty.

Keeping the South Jetty repaired and maintained is vital to providing safe navigation through the Venice Inlet. This cherished local landmark offers impressive views of the natural Gulf environment for both residents and visitors alike.

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UPDATED 2026 01 | CREATED 2024 08

- Owned and managed by USACE
- Owned and managed by the City of Venice
- Under an easement by USACE and WCIND
- Parcel boundaries set by Sarasota County Property Appraisers

